

Quid Navi



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McGILL UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF LAW

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le 25 septembre, 1995

Dear Friends of McGill & CALS

During a recent visit to the library of De Valk to dig into some obscure doctrinal writings on Civil Procedure, I fell upon an issue of CALS Newsletter, which I read with great interest.

Having been a student at the Faculty of Law of the K.U. Leuven during two years, both as a visiting student at CALS during 1991-1992 and afterwards as a student in the Belgian law programme studying for a Licentiate in Law (Licentiaat in de Rechten), I was most eager to learn about the latest developments at CALS.

As a great many students and practising attorneys have inquired about my experience in switching from a Canadian legal education (Civil and Common Law) to CALS and on to a continental legal education, the following remarks may be of interest to readers of the CALS Newsletter, most of whom have studied law in more than one jurisdiction.

I. The McGill experience

From the outset, my first exposure to the law was in a comparative perspective.

McGill Law School located in Montreal, Quebec is at the crossroads of two cultures (French and English speaking Canada) and two legal systems (Civil and Common Law). The comparative nature of the curriculum is a reflection of Canada's legal system which is a blend of the great Western legal traditions: the Civil Law, deriving from Roman Law through French Law and the Common Law deriving from English Law and now influenced by the law of the United States.

Although the Law School is located in French-speaking Quebec and most students and professors are active in the Civil Law stream, the whole approach to the teaching of the law is definitely inspired by the academic tradition developed in Common Law countries. This means that both for Civil and Common law courses, the Socratic method is used. A typical class revolves around the discussion of several cases with active student participation.

Throughout the programme, the emphasis is put on developing problem solving skills and analytical skills rather than learning black-letter law by heart. Thus, most exams are made up of fact patterns which must be resolved on the basis of cases and materials discussed in class. As most exams are open-book, memorization takes a backdrop against skills such as issue-spotting, disciplined legal reasoning as well as independence of thought.

I spent the fourth and final year of my McGill curriculum as a visiting student at CALS with transfer of credits to McGill Law School.

II. On to CALS

My arrival at Leuven in the Fall of '91 coincided with the rundown towards the creation of the Single Market (Europe '92). The timing was excellent as many of the courses in the European branch of the CALS programme were closely related to the major developments taking place at the time.

From the outset, I was struck by the very distinct position of CALS within the broader context of the Faculty of Law at K.U. Leuven. Whereas most other graduate programmes (at least in the Anglo-Saxon world as well as major jurisdictions such as Germany and France) are a reflection and an offspring of the undergraduate programme, CALS differs considerably in this respect. This is something I fully experienced upon studying for a Licentiaat in de Rechten afterwards.

Both from a point of view of the methodology used in teaching as from a

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Announcements / Annonces

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APATHY= DEATH. THE WALK TO BEAT AIDS

de Claudine Millette et Trevor McCann BCL III

Le sida est la première cause de mortalité chez les hommes âgés entre 25 et 44 ans dans les grandes métropoles canadiennes. Every day, 6000 people join the ranks of the over 19.5 million HIV-infected people worldwide.

Malgré la dédramatisation opérée par les médias quant à ce phénomène, le sida demeure encore un défi social d'une importance sous-estimée.

Despite these seemingly unsurmountable statistics, there is something you can do as an individual to help those that are infected as well as contributing to prevention efforts and helping to find a cure.

Ce dimanche 1er octobre et pour une 3e année consécutive, "Ça marche pour vaincre le sida"

est un marchethon au profit de 45 organismes communautaires et centres de recherche impliqués dans la lutte contre le sida à travers le Québec.

To participate in the walkathon, you may pick up the registration package at the McGill Legal Information Clinic in the Shatner Building or at the LSA office. Pick up the form and collect pledges right away.

Il n'y a pas de minimum requis d'argent à recueillir. L'important est de venir participer et montrer votre appui à une cause qui nous touche tous de près ou de loin. N'hésitez pas à nous contacter pour plus d'information.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Astra Lectures in Ethics Series:
Dr. Renée Fox, Annenberg Professor of the Social Sciences, University of Pennsylvania. Topic: Afterthoughts: Continuing Reflections on Organ Transplantation.
Moot Court, September 25th at 6 pm.

Legal Theory Workshop: Jacques Pierre Vanderlinden, Professor Emeritus, Free University of Brussels and Professor of Law, Chancellor Day Hall, room 202, September 29th at 11:30 am.

QUID NOVI GENERAL MEETING

All students are invited to share their ideas about the Quid at a general meeting on September 27th at 12:30 pm in room 101.

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Editorial

The Forgotten Holiday

For many law students - about a fifth of them - the Jewish holidays have a special meaning. For most others, Jewish holidays just means a lot of class cancellations. It also means a lot of make-ups (Sorry about that! but trust me, its very appreciated, especially for those of us who spend our holidays at the synagogue and can't attend classes).

So what do the holidays represent? Well Rosh Hashana, which falls this year on September 24 at night until September 26 at night, is the new year. The Jewish calendar is based on the lunar calendar, as opposed to the solar calendar. The first month of the new year is the Month of Tishri and the Rosh Hashanah falls on the first and second of Tishri.

Year 5756

This year, Rosh Hashanah marks the beginning of the year 5756. It also marks the 5756th birthday of the creation of man. Only 5756 years? you ask. Scientists believe that man, and its predecessors, has been around for millions of years. That may be true, but I'm talking about the first man with morality and a ethics. According to the bible, Adam was

the first man because he was the first to grasp the concept of a higher power and of morality.

Rosh Hashanah marks more than the start of the new year, it marks the rebirth of man. On this day, every man and woman must examine themselves and their actions. They stand before God in judgment and ask for atonement. It is at this period of the year that we must ask for forgiveness for the sins committed during the year. This process lasts for ten days or until Yom Kippur.

Yom Kippur falls this year on October 4 or on the tenth of the month of Tishri. Yom Kippur is a day of fast and of praying. It is taken very seriously. If there is one thing certain about jews, it is that they all take Yom Kippur seriously. Even the Jews who don't practice and never attend synagogue make a special effort for this day.

Succot: the forgotten

Most people don't know about the holiday Succot because classes aren't canceled those days. Succot last 8 days with special importance to the first two and last two. But after Rosh Hashanah

and Yom Kippur, people (not everybody) have had enough with religious holidays. In general, it is not considered as important as the previous two holidays. But don't tell that to observant Jews who take Succot as seriously as any other holiday.

Succot starts 4 days after Yom Kippur, in other words on October the 8th at night or on the 14th of Tishri at night. It actually a lot of fun. It is tradition to spend the eight days in a three-sided hut called a **Succa**. Spending a few meals in it is enough. It is also marks the beginning of winter and its at the end of Succot that at the synagogue on Saturdays we start reading from the beginning of the Torah.

The history behind the story is that when the Hebrews fled the bondage in Egypt, they had to go through the Sinai desert. The desert being a hot place, God protected the Hebrews by surrounding them with clouds. They had clouds above them, around them and even under them, **like a hut**. The deeper meaning to this holiday is that after the atonement of Rosh Hashanah and Kippur, the Jews must now pray on behalf of the rest of the people.

So happy holidays to all and don't forget about Succot even though there's no class cancellations.

LEGAL EAGLES TAKE FLIGHT

Greg Mackenzie, LLB II

In the first game of the season, quarterback James Murdock killed two birds with one stone when he launched a touchdown pass to Marty Valasek. After two seasons of winless play, the Legal Eagles finally scored a touchdown and bagged their first victory in a 17-0 defeathering of Solin Re-Visited last Sunday on the Lower Campus Field.

Thanks to his monster-sized offensive linemen, Murdock had plenty of time to put his cannon-like arm to work, completing six of eight passes. While his thousand-pound line battered defenders,

Murdock orchestrated a ground-air attack that would make Stormin' Norman proud. First year students Bubba Nayers, Neil Peden and Aaron Atcheson made life a little safer for men behind the front line. As veteran receiver Lloyd Lipsett observed, "We've finally got an O-Line. It's like having a new quarterback."

The defensive squad also soared to new heights - racking up two turnovers, six sacks and allowing only one first down. Team members were jubilant as they streamed off the field. Marty Valasek, who suffered through the

1994/95 season in which the team failed to score a single point hauled down both touchdown passes. "We're off to a good start" cried Marty, "I feel great!".

As members peacock about in post-game celebrations, Murdock warned his cocky squad that not every match would be a turkey shoot: "We can't let up now guys. There are bigger and better teams out there."

The Legal Eagles play their next game Saturday, October 14 at 4:00 p.m. on the Lower Campus Field (near the Roddick Gates). Spectators are welcome and much appreciated!

Jodytalk

sab ¥ bat ¥ i ¥ cal: According to Webster's a leave from work. Especially a paid leave of absence granted, as to a professor, usually every seventh year for rest, study etc.

This year there are no less than ten professors taking a sabbatical, and who can blame them? Having an entire year to ponder the mysteries of the Universe or to rewrite the Hong Kong Business Corporations Act, or fly off to Mexico is certainly something that I could get used to. After all, the word sabbatical comes from sabbath and, as everyone who has any knowledge of the bible knows, on the sabbath the creator of the Universe rested and viewed creation. (What isn't really known is that on that day the creator had a big brunch, read the newspaper and went to the beach, and didn't say any prayers except "I hope the Habs make the playoffs this year," but I digress.) As any law student knows, or in the case of the first year class will shortly find out, professors often have a God complex, and as such it is not surprising that they like to take sabbaticals. In addition to a year's paid leave, most of us would consider ourselves lucky if we got two weeks, academics have a plethora of other perks that come with their jobs.

Summer vacation: Who else but academics get to take the whole of the summer off. If anything students work harder during the summer than the rest of the year. If you don't believe me just ask any (insert name of any large cross provincial law firm here) lackey. When you're not working your ass off in some windowless cubicle tucked away in the bowels of Place Ville Marie, you're kissing ass at some

cocktail party which you must attend to show your dedication to the firm. To be sure there are professors who shun global travel and afternoons sipping martinis at the Mount Royal Club to engage in the most serious of academic pursuits, research. Research is a pseudonym for getting government grants in order to underpay desperate, starving law students to summarize Supreme Court Decisions (because of the complexity of these ridiculous decisions the summaries often tend to be longer than the actual cases see last week's Jodytalk). The professors then plagiarize...woops I mean analyze the students work in order to publish learned articles in prestigious law journals. I have discovered after two years of hacking away at this keyboard that to spew forth inane ramblings of useless verbiage is no difficult task, that's why Jodytalk is so hard to produce. On the other hand, if you want a professional opinion of the drivel that professors attempt to pass off as academic writing just have a chat with Mary Pat Cormier. She'll give you the skinny on academic publications and answer the eternal question, "Does anyone besides Professor Bell parallel cite?"

The Faculty Club: I've heard about this place. I'm told that it looks a bit like the vacation spots for VISA Gold, and its everywhere I want to be. I've never been, and it looks more and more like I never will be. Its no big deal though because students have Thompson House which is closer and the food must be much better. How do I know? Well it seems that all of the law professors eat lunch at Thompson House even though they

could be at the Faculty Club. I guess the Faculty Club doesn't have Boreal on tap.

Tenure: Perhaps the greatest perk that a professor has is job security, and not even government employees can say that anymore. Ever since Socrates tasted the Hemlock academic freedom has been at issue. Tenure originated as a method of promoting academic freedom. It was theorized that only if professors were secure in their jobs could they truly be free to teach the truth, no matter how unpopular that truth might be. This coincidentally is the same theory that underlies lifetime tenure for judges. In theory this seems like a good idea, however, its practice has begun to show some flaws in the system. One of the most basic tenets of the employer / employee relationship is the ability of the employer to fire the employee. Tenure takes this notion and turns it on its head. What tenure does is remove any kind of incentive for a professor to be the least bit accountable to the students, the consumers of the educational product. When it was first developed tenure was necessary because academics were often persecuted for heretical views. However, in modern society we have freedom of speech, no matter how unpopular that speech, and believe me some of the law professors' speech is quite unpopular, you can't be criticized for saying it.

What the educational system needs is a complete overhaul. Tenure is obsolete and a more responsible form of labor management system needs to be instituted. Additionally, an educational system more friendly to the ultimate consumer of the product,

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the student, must be developed. If the University expects alumni to donate generously they need to train their employees to act a little friendlier to the students while they are enrolled here. Only at McGill could one branch of the administration treat students so shabbily, while the other asks for donations. Perhaps I have exaggerated the situation, it wouldn't be the first time, but I did so to make a point. The point is and always should have been is that Universities are places for research. However, they are also primarily places to educate young minds. For too long most academics

and academic institutions have favored the former mission, while ignoring the latter. One of the benefits of having so many professors on sabbatical is that you get a lot more practitioners teaching classes. I rather enjoy having a practitioner teach for several reasons. First, their perspective on the material is infinitely more realistic. Second, more often than not, when absent, they provide you a substitute, rather than forcing a make up. Third, they hate having their time wasted by a lot of meaningless banter, so they won't waste yours.

Jody berkes is a fourth year law

student who has consumed about as much education as he can, and he is now full. His column appears weekly in the Quid Novi.

Memo

To: Mary Pat Cormier.

Re: upcoming special Jodytalk edition of the McGill Law Journal.

In order for me to begin work on my compilation I will need you to forward my retainer in small unmarked bills. Second, I will need a few supplies. 1 quart of rum, a case of beer, a quart of Jack Daniel's, and a case of grapefruits.

Thanks -- J.H.B.

(Continued from page 1)

content point of view, the focus at CALS was closer to what I had experienced beforehand at McGill than what I would experience afterwards while studying Belgian law in Dutch at De Valk. This is probably a testimony to the openmindedness of the many Professors at CALS who have themselves undertaken graduate studies in America.

As was the case at McGill, CALS affords students the benefit of small classes thus allowing some degree of student participation, especially in those classes where the case-law method is used. At CALS as at McGill, the emphasis was put more on the development of legal skills than on memorization.

One of the truly strong points of CALS - and it really does stand out in this respect - is the dynamic perspective given on many topics by Professors who also have a vast practical experience. This provides for an interesting mix of a detached academic perspective and practical know-how. It also provides students with a good window on some of the opportunities of the outside world.

Upon completing my year at CALS and graduating from McGill, I got a fair amount of exposure to substantive Belgian law in the summer of '92 while working on a demanding and rewarding project for Professor Hans van Houtte. From there on, I set out to study for a Licentiaat in de

Rechten.

III. A different perspective on the Civil Law

When already holding an accredited law degree, it is possible to qualify for a Belgian law degree within a relatively short time-span (depending upon your previous legal studies).

An interesting aspect of this transition is experiencing how one legal system (in this case the Civil Law) can be studied and viewed from different angles. Both the Civil Law of Quebec and that of Belgium are extremely similar especially as far as the "hard core" Civil Law courses are concerned (inter alia contractual obligations, delictual obligations, real property and special contracts). This is due to the fact that they both derive from Roman Law through the Napoleonic Code. Notwithstanding this great degree of similarity, these courses are taught in a very different way at both universities.

Whereas the McGill approach favours a gradual discovery of the basic tenants of the legal system through the studying and discussion of cases, the approach at K.U. Leuven is more geared towards presenting a comprehensive overview of the law in a given topic through a syllabus. This latter approach provides the student with a good conceptual framework and a sense of perspective.

Most course materials stand out by their clarity and clear structure. The drawback of this approach is the overemphasis put on memorization, which does not promote independence of thought.

As is the case with most practicioners, my daily practice of the law is now confined to the laws of my own jurisdiction. The skills developed by studying several legal systems in different ways are however most useful in interpreting one's own national law. On a broader level, a comparative approach to the study of the law broadens the mind, widens one's horizons and has a role to play in the development of international relations in this day and age of mutual interdependence and increased globalization. In this respect, the CALS programme is a success.

Respectfully Yours,

Christian Van der Stichele B.C.L. & LL.B., McGill University, 1992; Lic. Jur., K.U. Leuven 1993

Note: Christian Van der Stichele has recently moved from the Corporate Law department of De Bandt, van Hecke & Lagae (Brussels) to the Commercial Litigation department of Loeff, Claeys, Verbeke (Brussels).

L'épopée de 4 plaideurs à Genève

Du 7 au 13 mai derniers, avait lieu à Genève la finale internationale du concours de procès simulé en droit international Charles Rousseau. Il s'agissait de l'aboutissement de tous les efforts que nous avons fournis et ce, depuis déjà huit mois. Nous étions donc tendus, mais particulièrement fiers de représenter McGill, prêts et déterminés plus que jamais à affronter cette finale de la dixième édition du concours qui se voulait cette année plus international que jamais avec à son actif des équipes en provenance de sept pays.

Quand nous y resongeons, une phrase en particulier nous revient en tête : c'était lors d'un de nos premiers (et fort nombreux par la suite) dîners-discussion à Thompson House où notre entraîneur, Pierre Klein, nous avait sagement lancé : «vous êtes tous bien certains de vouloir faire partie de l'équipe du Rousseau ? N'oubliez pas que ce sera *beaucoup* de travail...» Et nous, encore tout innocents, lui avions répondu en cœur : «ouais, ouais, Pierre».

Eh bien, il avait vu juste. La bibliothèque de droit ? Nous l'avons vue, parcourue, sillonnée, fouillée de fond en comble, y avons mangé (presque dormi), ri, déprimé et ce, souvent huit jours sur sept. Le Moot Court ? Nous y avons passé presque tous nos moments libres en compagnie de nos deux copains inséparables : notre mémoire de même que le lutrin. Nous y avons plaidé, re-plaidé, jugé la plaidoirie de nos co-équipiers, répondu aux mille et une questions de nos juges au regard inquisiteur. Quant à la rédaction du mémoire : combien d'heures y avons nous mis (on dirait des années) ! Combien de fois fallait-il tout reprendre et reprendre ... pour nous faire dire que ce n'était pas encore tout à fait «clair, efficace et incisif». Mais, aussi, combien nous avons appris.

Le sujet du concours portait sur une crise hypothétique (un "heureux" mélange des crises humanitaires d'Irak, de la Yougoslavie, du Rwanda, de la Somalie et d'Haiti) qui opposait deux États : la Kalvitie et le Tignas (bref, un

problème pour s'arracher les cheveux ou les faire dresser sur la tête).

La Kalvitie, pays de tradition démocratique, venait de subir un coup d'État par une faction politique qui envisageait une lutte contre la corruption existant sous l'ancien régime. Au nom de cette épuration politique, on avait rétabli la peine de mort, exilé le président, arrêté et jugé arbitrairement des milliers de partisans de l'ancien régime. On rapportait même l'existence de certains camps de concentration ... Le Tignas, devant cette situation qu'il qualifiait d'insoutenable et en violation flagrante des droits de la personne, avait obtenu l'autorisation de la part du Conseil de Sécurité d'intervenir militairement en Kalvitie afin d'y rétablir l'ordre. Toutefois (c'était bien à prévoir), le Tignas avait réquisitionné en chemin de nombreux moutons (dont les méchouis se sentaient loin à la ronde...), une des ressources premières des habitants de Kalvitie, et avait rapatrié des tableaux qu'il disait lui appartenir.

Deux concepts généraux s'opposaient donc : d'un côté on défendait le concept de la souveraineté de l'État ; de l'autre, on vociférait contre les pouvoirs trop étendus du Conseil de Sécurité ainsi que le concept du droit d'ingérence : des questions de taille en droit international public. L'équipe était scindée en deux : Valérie Mac-Seing et Marc Porret représentaient le Tignas et plaidaient de leur côté ; Sébastien Gagné et Nadine Thwaites étaient, eux, les procureurs de la Kalvitie.

À Genève, chacune de nos deux équipes devait affronter, lors des éliminatoires, deux autres des équipes participantes et ce, devant un banc de trois juges. Toutefois, le plus corsé était à suivre. En effet, en demi-finale, nous devons tous plaider du même côté, soit celui du Royaume du Tignas. Ceci impliquait un sérieux remaniement d'argumentation et de conviction pour nous deux. Heureusement, c'est dans le cadre stimulant des jardins du G.A.T.T. et du parc des Réformateurs que

nous avons développé avec un regain d'énergie une stratégie qui devait nous mener en finale. En soirée, alors que nous nous préparions avidement à déguster une odorante fondue suisse, quelle ne fut pas notre surprise lorsque Pierre nous interdit de toucher à ce délice. Ce dernier provoquait, paraît-il, des crampes intestinales chroniques qui auraient pu miner notre performance lors de la plaidoirie du lendemain matin ... On se serait cru en proie aux directives rigides d'un entraîneur est-allemand durant les Jeux de Moscou !

Littéralement crevés après les semi-finales, c'est au beau milieu d'une sieste bien méritée que l'équipe de Paris X venait nous crier : «debout ! vous allez en finale contre l'U.L.B. : nous allons vous donner un coup de main.» Cette chaleureuse attention fut suivie de plusieurs autres encouragements.

En finale, nous plaidions toujours du même côté et affrontions l'équipe de l'U.L.B., championne depuis 5 années consécutives. Le tout s'est déroulé dans les locaux de la Cour de Cassation genevoise où chacune des parties était cloîtrée dans une anti-chambre avant la comparution devant le Tribunal, cette fois composé de neuf juges. L'entrée en Cour nous a tous fort impressionnés : ils étaient là les neuf juges calmes et prêts à nous questionner avec acharnement, la foule était au rendez-vous (de même que les journalistes) : notre rêve se réalisait enfin.

C'est après une somptueuse réception à la Mairie de Genève que les résultats furent annoncés à bord d'un bateau sur le Lac Léman. La finale avait été juste et nul besoin de mentionner que nous étions tous quelque peu nerveux avant la proclamation solennelle des gagnants. L'atmosphère étant fébrile, notre table (germano-canadienne) se plaisait à faire l'animation musicale pour la salle au grand complet. Lorsque le fameux : «cette année, le premier prix de cette dixième édition du concours Rousseau revient à ... McGill» retentit, nous nous levâmes pour clamer un "Yahoo" de satisfaction et de soulagement. Puis, après avoir

reçu les accolades de nos confrères/soeurs, survint un soupir de crainte : ayant passé huit mois à préparer intensément le Rousseau, comment seraient les lendemains ?

Notre séjour à Genève fut une formidable occasion de rencontrer et d'échanger avec de jeunes juristes ouest/est européens. En tant que tel, le Rousseau fut une entreprise mémorable, riche à plusieurs points de vue : personnel, travail d'équipe, recherche, rédaction, plaidoirie, persévérance, acharnement : une

expérience riche non seulement pour un futur juriste, mais aussi pour un individu qui part à la découverte de ses capacités pour les pousser au maximum. Une expérience que nous recommandons fortement, même si elle représente un engagement énorme, car elle nous manque, nous marque profondément, nous apprend et apporte tellement en retour.

Nous tenons à remercier le bureau du Doyen pour son soutien financier, et, bien sûr, Pierre Klein pour ses encouragements et son

intérêt de même que pour son infinie disponibilité.

À tous et toutes, meilleurs voeux pour cette nouvelle année scolaire !

Sur ce, VIVA GENEVA !

Nadine Thwaites BCL III

Sébastien Gagné BCL III

Student Task Force on Faculty Reform

Ami Kotler, Nat. IV

By now you have all probably heard announcements in class or received e-mail about a student task force which has been formed to find out what kinds of changes students would like made to the faculty. If you still haven't heard anything, read on!

The idea behind this project is to try and consolidate student opinion on a wide array of subjects, including curriculum reform, changes to grading procedures, the structure of the tutorial program, exam scheduling and course registration. The idea is not merely to debate philosophical approaches to the role of the faculty (although these debates are welcome too!), but to end up with concrete recommendations for improving the way the system works for the students who take part in it.

In order to be effective, a project like this must obviously be as representative as possible. Our goal is to be able to say with some confidence that the result represents the views of the students of the faculty. In order to reach as many people as possible, there will be

a set of discussions/hearings on various topics over the next few weeks. Watch for posterings for exact dates, times and places. Since we want to get a wide range of views, there will be opportunities for students in first, second, third and fourth years to come and speak their mind. There will also be hearings for faculty members. These submissions will form the basis of a faculty-wide questionnaire, the results of which will generate a draft report. This report will be available for student review before its incorporation into a final report in the beginning of January.

Please start thinking about submissions you might want to make! If the idea of speaking out in public doesn't appeal to you, please write out what you want to say and leave it in our mailbox in the LSA (Student Task Force), or e-mail us at "force@lsa.lan.mcgill.ca". What do you like or not like? Complaints about the way the system works now are totally welcome! If you don't like the exam schedule, tell us! If you hate a course, say so! How do you feel about 100 percent exams? This is your chance to say so. En français, c'est

parfait! Also welcome are submissions about things you DO like, and suggestions about how to make things better. Do you think we should get rid of grading? Do you think that's a terrible idea? Let us know! Should the law program be made more practical? How? Do you approve of the current options for semi-obligatory courses? How would you change them?

This task force can only succeed if people with opinions make the effort to make them known. The current administration has shown keen interest in finding out what students think about the way things work here (or don't!). This is our opportunity to let them know what you think, and more importantly, how you would like to see things change. If you have any questions about this project, please feel free to speak with me, Lisa Horvath, Shawn Lewis, Lyanne Winikoff or Terry Doyle. We are looking forward to speaking with you!

Dantouflicating

Don McGowan, LLB III

Usually, I'll start this with a ramble about something utterly unrelated to the mass media. But today, I'm going to cut to the chase, because by now we've all seen the 90210 Season Opener. So I've just got to ask: did anyone *actually* believe that TAT wasn't in cahoots with Ginger? And what about that cheeseball opening in the airplane with Kelly Bundy and Weinerman, her new boyfriend? Even Meg Ryan can't pull off that stunt with a Baldwin, and she's an *actress*! And I've just got to ask: 24-hour "maid" service? I didn't know they were trying to get Hugh Grant to do a guest spot. Oh well, negotiations must have fallen through...

Judge Dredd

I was going to tell you about *A Walk in the Clouds*, but everyone seems to think I should go easy on Mr. Canoehead for a while. Instead, we'll look at Sly's new *magnum opus*. And I do mean "magnum" - he's got a gun as tall as he is. And the gun repeats everything he says, which is nice, because that meant someone was translating for him and now we can understand the dialogue. Unfortunately, that means we can understand the

dialogue.

The effects in this film are horrible. Just because Sly got a new computer doesn't mean he should be allowed to draw the backgrounds. The flight scenes are all washed out with this horrible brown color, and the robot moves like a white guy dancing. But the body armor (designed by Armani, no less), is kind of hip, and Sly gets 6-inch heels, so that makes him about 5 feet tall. When shot from below, he almost looks as tall as the other kids.

And, of course, there's the patently unbelievable "she's the female lead, so she'll have to smooch Sly" woman who wears lots of skimpy clothing, and the useless sidekick from Saturday Night Live.

Fortunately, all is not lost. This does have the virtue of being an incredibly short film.

Clueless

You know I'm going to love this film. The brilliant casting of Nick Tortelli as a sleazy lawyer (I know - why the adjective?) alone could make this film, but Alicia brings out the "just maybe I could have gotten this chicky... naah, who'm I kidding" in all of us.

(Note: the use of "chicky" with a

"y" makes everything I say into gender-neutral language. I asked a lesbian, and she said I'm right, so hardy-har-har. She also agreed with my assessment of Alicia, but that's an aside.)

The film begs to be laughed at. The wimpy, sappy college guy with his weiner gyrlfrynd reminds me of... well, me, before I got to law school and shoved a lemon up my... And it's nice to have some circularity in my life - Ginger from 90210 is Amber in *Clueless*, the girl who always wears Alicia's outfits and boyfriends after she does.

Front to back genius. Not since *The Brady Bunch* have I seen such brilliance.

And to believe that people say I don't like anything on these days...

Mortal Kombat

Another fine film - the singing popcorn guy was there! Lots of people get blown up real good. The plot makes no sense. Who cares? And so what if none of them are any good actors? No one ever holds that against Mr. Canoehead. (Sorry. I just couldn't resist.)

Just remember: it doesn't have Christophe Lambert for nothing. They're trying to tell you something...

OTIS NOTICE

Hi everyone!

Just a few messages in sport this week. First I would like to congratulate our intramural teams, especially the men's football team for their first game which they won 17-0. Special "Bravo" to Jacques Duguay who played a great

game! Also, congratulations to the girls' soccer team who won 3-0. Great job guys!

Don't forget that Law Games are coming up and we are now looking for a costume for the faculty. If you have any ideas please come and see me, you would be more than welcome!

Well, that's all for this week. As usual, if you have any comments or questions please get in touch with me.

Alexandra Otis
Sports coordinator